

# **NORTH DAKOTA COURTS**



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**ANNUAL REPORT  
1992**

# Juvenile Caseload

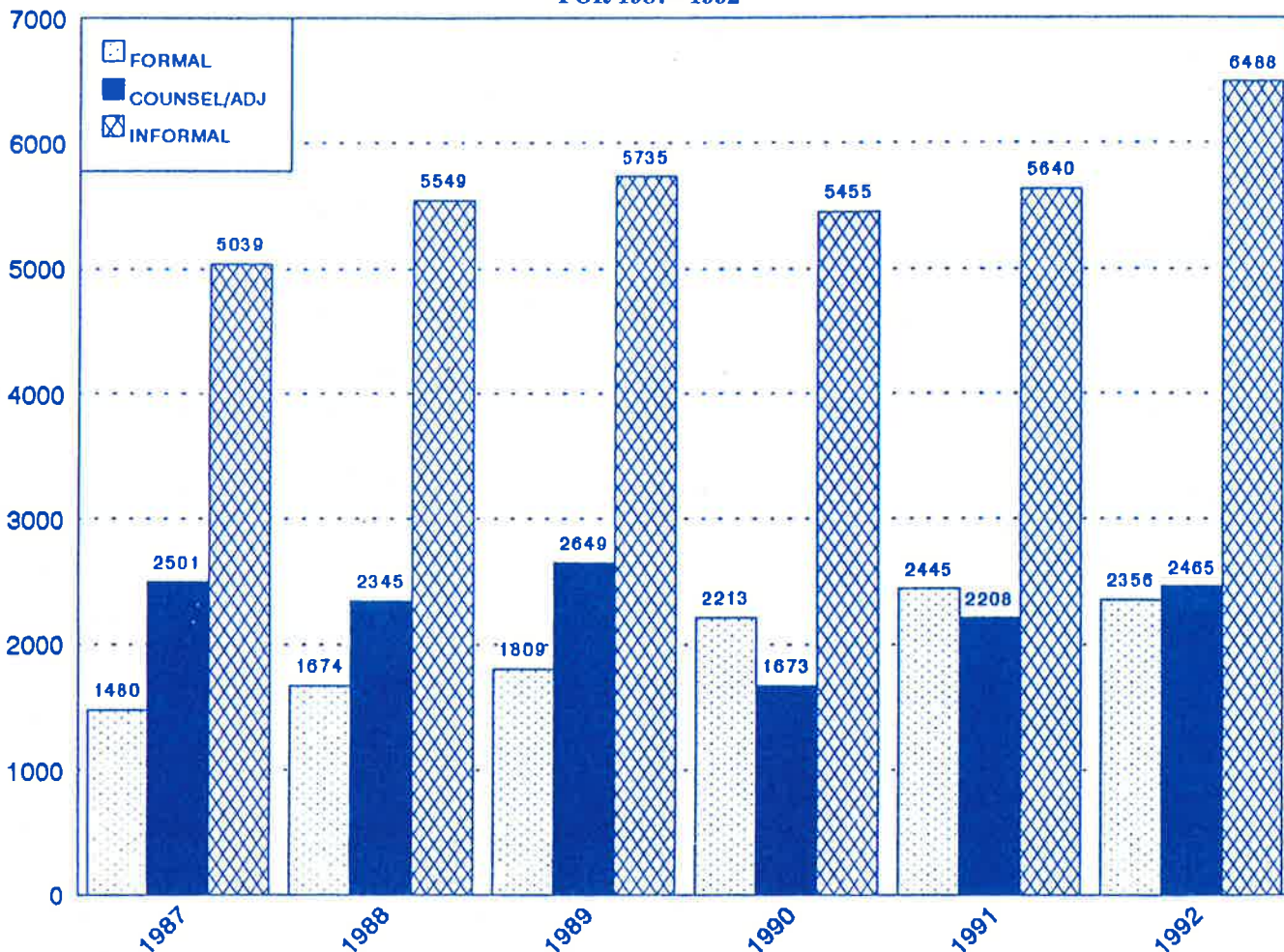
As with the criminal caseload, the low violent crime rate in North Dakota is reflected in its juvenile court statistics. Offenses against persons made up 5% of the juvenile court caseload. Meanwhile, status offenses (offenses which only a child can commit) made up 20% of the caseload. Offenses against property - 31%, traffic offense - 5%, deprivation - 13%, and other filings 24%.

The method by which cases were disposed showed an increase in the use of informal supervision. Of the cases heard, 57% were disposed of through informal adjustments in 1992, compared with 55% in 1991. Additionally, 22% of the cases were counsel

adjusted, and 21% were handled formally. This compares with 23% counsel adjusted and 21% handled formally in 1991.

Overall, the juvenile court caseload increased by 8%, continuing a generally upward trend that has been present for the last several years. The table on the adjacent page compares the reason for referral for the juvenile court in 1992 and 1991. As in previous years, the illegal possession or purchase of alcoholic beverages continues to be the most common single reason for referral to the juvenile court. Deprivation ranks second, while misdemeanor theft ranks third.

**COMPARISON OF JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS FOR 1987 - 1992**



**TYPES OF JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS FOR 1992 AND 1991**

Judicial District	Formal		Informal		Counsel/Adjusted		Total Dispositions		% Difference For Total Dispositions
	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	
Northwest	266	240	1392	1,256	147	165	1,661	1,443	+15.1
Northeast	289	277	490	478	730	840	1,595	1,334	+19.6
Northeast Central	291	310	1,024	898	390	301	1,509	1,389	+8.6
East Central	682	728	918	875	278	316	1,919	2,035	-5.7
Southeast	201	238	726	791	419	317	1,346	1,116	+20.6
South Central	565	480	1,689	1,953	217	306	2,739	2,501	+9.5
Southwest	57	83	301	237	212	220	540	475	+13.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>6,540</b>	<b>6,488</b>	<b>2,241</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>11,309</b>	<b>10,293</b>	<b>+9.8</b>



**REASONS FOR REFERRAL TO JUVENILE COURT SERVICES  
IN 1992 AND 1991**

	1992	1991	Percent Difference
<b>UNRULY</b> ..... 2083	2,248	1,951	+15.2
Runaway-Instate ..... 449	653	558	+17.0
Runaway-out-of-state ..... 119	168	149	+12.8
Truancy ..... 273	235	198	+18.7
Ungovernable Behavior ..... 405	435	537	-19.0
Conduct/Control Violation ..... 84	73	70	+4.3
Curfew Violation ..... 318	356	335	+6.3
Other ..... 243	328	104	+215.4
<b>DELINQUENCY</b> ..... 6311	7,349	7,103	+3.5
Offense Against Person ..... 924	554	446	+24.2
Assault ..... 359	327	269	+21.6
Homicide ..... 2	2	2	0
Kidnapping ..... 3	3	0	+300.0
Sex Offense ..... 57	64	65	-1.5
Other ..... 139	158	110	+43.6
Offense Against Property ..... 3240	3,481	3,396	+2.5
Arson ..... 17	27	36	-25.0
Burglary ..... 228	219	173	+26.6
Criminal Mischief ..... 618	685	684	+1
Criminal Trespass ..... 139	160	166	-3.6
Forgery ..... 63	83	60	+38.3
Robbery ..... 13	4	2	+100.0
Theft-Misdemeanor ..... 1249	1,263	1,288	-1.9
Theft-Felony ..... 632	643	592	+8.6
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle ..... 137	154	143	+7.7
Other ..... 236	243	252	-3.6
Traffic Offenses ..... 434	560	574	-2.4
Driving w/o license ..... 311	402	371	+8.4
Negligent Homicide ..... 1	0	1	-100.0
Other ..... 122	158	202	-21.8
Other Offenses ..... 2537	2,754	2,687	+2.5
Disorderly Conduct ..... 323	321	312	+2.9
Firearms ..... 78	61	37	+64.9
Game & Fish Violation ..... 47	32	59	-45.8
Obstruction of Law ..... 39	53	41	+29.3
Possession or Purchase of Alcohol Beverage ..... 1695	2,028	2,010	+9
Controlled Substance Violation ..... 96	45	46	-2.2
Other ..... 212	214	182	+17.6
<b>DEPRIVATION</b> ..... 1946	1,493	1,837	-18.7
Abandoned ..... 5	0	0	—
Abuse/Neglect ..... 1367	661	956	-30.9
Deprived ..... 498	726	650	+11.7
Other ..... 76	106	231	-54.1
<b>SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS</b> ..... 61	93	93	—
Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights ..... 12	19	17	+11.8
Voluntary Termination of Parental Rights ..... 49	74	76	-2.6
Other ..... 0	0	0	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ..... 11182	<b>11,183</b>	<b>10,984</b>	<b>+1.8</b>